

What is claimed is:

1. A vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

a handle; and

a cannula coupled to said handle comprising a curved distal portion, said curved
5 distal portion having a side port for disposing in a subretinal space and for aspirating
subretinal fluid, said cannula having a second port disposed sufficiently away from said
side port so that said second port may be used for aspirating a second fluid from said
vitreous cavity without removing said first port from said subretinal space.

2. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising:

10 a first flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said side port and a
proximal end for fluidly coupling to a vacuum source;

a second flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said second port
and a proximal end for fluidly coupling to said vacuum source; and

15 a valve disposed on said handle for selectively opening and closing said second
flexible tubing.

3. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said side port is recessed from an
exterior surface of said curved portion.

4. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said side port comprises a periphery
and a raised ridge surrounding at least a portion of said periphery.

20 5. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a closed
tip having a smooth, convex surface capable of safely touching the retina.

6. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a smooth
ventral surface capable of safely touching the retina.

7. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a smooth dorsal surface capable of safely touching the retina.

8. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion is made from a flexible plastic having a smooth surface capable of safely touching the retina.

5 9. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising an optical fiber disposed in said handle and said curved portion, and wherein said curved portion is capable of transmitting light from said optical fiber to an interior of said eye.

10. The instrument of claim 9 wherein said curved portion is made from a light transmitting plastic.

10 11. The instrument of claim 9 wherein said curved portion comprises a window made from a light transmitting plastic.

12. The instrument of claim 1 further comprising a second side port, and wherein said side port and said second side port are fluidly coupled.

15 13. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion has a radius of curvature substantially equal to a radius of curvature of a human eye.